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P.O. Box 4260  
Austin, TX 78765  
512/424-6245

# Getting Your Board to Use the F-Word: Overcoming Fundraising Fears

Board members who haven't participated in fundraising in the past are likely to underestimate their effectiveness. Get them started in the right direction by emphasizing that it's important for every board member to be involved in fundraising. All board

members can help identify and evaluate prospective funders, cultivate and solicit gifts from their friends and colleagues, and actively support fundraising events by their presence. A special training session could also help board members understand that they can be successful fundraisers.

When recruiting new board members, make sure that your board orientation includes your organization's policy on personal "giving and getting." Many boards ask that board members make a personal contribution or solicit a contribution from another individual or institution, as part of their board responsibilities. Board members may have differing abilities to contribute, so a standard gift is not necessarily appropriate, but one hundred percent board giving should be the goal. Some foundations now expect every board member to support the organization financially before they will provide a grant.

Statistics that show other board members are participating may also influence more active fundraising. More than 88 percent of those responding to BoardSource's Governance Index questionnaire said they make annual personal monetary contributions to their boards. In addition, 79 percent reported that they identify donors and/or solicit funds, while 75 percent said they attend fund-raising events for their organizations.

### **"I don't feel comfortable putting my reputation on the line."**

This concern might be an indicator of deeper problems related to the board's fiduciary responsibilities. Board members who are uncomfortable talking about money may need additional information about your organization's audit process, your policies for handling potential conflicts of interest, and financial and accounting procedures (signing checks, handling of cash, approving expenses, outlining

parameters for credit card usage). All board members should understand your organization's finances and feel comfortable vouching for its integrity.

### **"My friends don't have a lot of money. I don't want to put them on the spot by asking."**

This fear is based on the assumption that making a donation is a painful or unpleasant thing. As mentioned earlier, board members should understand that many donors appreciate the opportunity to support a strong organization that is making a positive difference in their community.

Asking for a specific amount of money is a proven technique for successful fundraisers. Large organizations with fundraising staff often gather information about prospective funders, such as the amount of money an individual has given to other organizations, that helps determine the amount of the initial gift request. Thereafter, requests are usually based on previous giving. When in doubt, begin asking for an amount that you believe to be high for the individual. Depending on the person's response, you will then be pleasantly surprised with a larger-than-expected gift or be quick to explain that a smaller gift would also be very appreciated.

If it is truly impossible for the donor to give money, there may be other things that the person can give, such as the in-kind contribution of professional services, volunteer time, or an introduction to another person who would be able to make a contribution. In this way the fundraising conversation is part of a larger process of building the organization's network.

### **"I will get rejected."**

The reality is that people don't give unless they are asked. Unfortunately rejections are often par for the course. When you do get rejected, listen to what

the prospective donor says and try to respond to his or her concerns.

If appropriate, add that person to your organization's mailing list. Send them updates on your accomplishments with as much personalization as possible. Board-level expression of appreciation for an individual's interest can spur new giving -- ultimately turning a "no" into a "yes".



## Council Reports

*The following reports, arranged by the location of each council, were submitted prior to the semi-annual Fall meeting of the SVRC. Other reports may have been disseminated at the meeting.*

### **Austin Area Community Advisory Council**

From April 2002 through September 2002, the Austin Council has recruited three new council members and has welcomed back one honorary member.

In June 2003, the council sponsored a car wash raising \$300.00. In August 2003, the council held a sausage wrap at a local Wal-Mart and raised \$400.00. The council also submitted Matching Grant Request to Wal-Mart immediately after the sausage wrap event. This has prepared the council to assist Turman House in having a joyful Christmas.

The council is also preparing to sponsor Christmas food baskets for needy parole families and families in need in the

community. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Capital Chapter #8181 also a co-sponsor the sausage wrap event in August and the Christmas Basket Project.

The volunteer council purchased fifteen memberships to the Northeast Branch YMCA for the youth at Turman House to exercise. The council also supports weekend activities and outings through reimbursement to the Student Benefit Fund on a monthly basis. The council also provided the funds to purchase ten workbooks for the Pathways curriculum for the youth who have committed sexual offenses. During June, the council voted to co-sponsor the Foster Grandparent Program along with the Texas MHMR Department for Turman House.

A very dedicated council member has worked very hard and has registered the council on the Austin area annual federal employees charitable campaign. A new member that teaches information systems is breaking ground by developing a user-friendly web site for

the council. He is also assisting Turman House youth with their computers. Finally, the AACAC is one of the co-hosts for the special anniversary 2004 20<sup>th</sup> Annual TYC/SVRC Volunteer Conference to be held in Austin.

The AACAC meets the second Thursday of the month at noon at Turman House.

### Community Advisory Council for the Youth of Al Price State Juvenile Correctional Facility

*No report submitted.*

### Brownwood Community Advisory Council

During the past six months, council members have been involved in numerous activities at Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex. Fundraisers conducted throughout the year fund their involvement. The Community Advisory Council continues to conduct the family photos fundraiser.

The council's major fundraiser this year was the Brownwood Reunion, held September 19 - 21, where council members hosted a food booth in the food court.

During the last six months, the Community Advisory Council has furnished transportation and lodging for family members of four youth to travel to Brownwood to visit their children using funds raised from fundraising activities. In addition, the Community Advisory Council uses other funds to sponsor numerous activities benefiting the youth at Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex throughout the year.

This year's summer cookouts began in April and ended the second week of August. All of the students on each dorm at Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex are treated to a cookout each summer. Community Advisory Council members and community volunteers work together for thirteen Tuesday nights to host these cookouts, which are the highlight of each year's activities. Students are served two freshly grilled hamburgers complete with all the trimmings, accompanied by sides of chips, cookies and punch. Many staff members bring other treats for the youth to these cookouts, including homemade desserts.

In May, Community Advisory Council members purchased decorations for the reception held after graduation services. In addition, they served refreshments to youth and their families. Youth from the culinary arts class at Unit II made the cookies, which were wonderful! The Community Advisory Council also paid conference fees for four local volunteer award winners, so that they could attend the TYC/SVRC Conference held in Houston.

In June, the membership nominating committee met to recommend new Council members, which were recommended for membership at August's meeting. Members of this committee also recommended officers for the upcoming fiscal year. The council now has five new members, eight returning members and a new executive board as a result of this

## Better Board Meetings: The Difference Between "Need to Know" and "Nice to Know"

By Ernie Ginsler

*"We have long board meetings, but we never seem to be able to finish the agenda."*

*"By the time we finish committee reports, we have to rush all the new items."*

If these complaints sound familiar to you, read on. As non-profit organizations take on more and more community responsibilities, the task of the board of directors becomes increasingly more complicated. In order to deal with expanding responsibilities, and/or a more complex operating environment, non-profit boards must focus on what is important during the limited time they have together.

### Reports for Information

One of the largest impediments to focused board meetings is the habit that many boards have of receiving reports for information. More often than not, these are reports on programs or services, plans for upcoming events, reports on meetings that the Executive Director or a board member went to, etc. While it's nice to know these things, and while some of them may be relevant to decision-making, the board meeting is the wrong venue for their presentation. Reports on past events should be sent in writing along with the agenda package. Then they can be read at the board's leisure and the information they contain will already be known to the board before they have to rely on it for making decisions.

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meeting. In September, council members attended a renaming ceremony and reception on September 16, when our facility was renamed the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex.

Upcoming October activities include judging dorm decorations at Halloween. Council members enjoy this, as they get a glimpse of the creative talents some of our youth have. Recently, the Christmas committee met and began planning holiday activities and fundraisers, such as the annual appeal letter. The annual appeal letter will be mailed in November. This year, holiday decorations will be donated to area nursing homes, and council members and youth will take them to these facilities. Council members voted to sponsor both decorating contests and donate prizes to the top three dorms at each unit. In addition to the dorm judging contest, council members will be sponsoring a poster contest during the Christmas holidays and will be recognizing the artists of the top three posters at each unit. Council members will stuff stockings on December 8, and a Christmas dorm-decorating contest will be held on December 15. This year's Christmas parties will be held December 9 and 11 at both units.

This year's officers are David Harding, president; Kay Wadsworth, vice-president; and Dann Barger, treasurer. The Brownwood Community Advisory Council for the Benefit of TYC Youth meets on the last Monday of each month at noon in the conference room at Unit II.

### Corpus Christi Youth Resource Council for Texas Youth

From April 2003 through September 2003 the CCYR council generously donated for weekend outings, recreational activities and college preparatory opportunities for York House residents and Corpus Christi Parole youth.

Some of the activities & outings that the York House residents have enjoyed have been going to the movie theater, movie rentals, bowling, weekend

snacks, film processing, pizza parties, dining out at the Golden Corral Restaurant and holiday celebrations, Labor Day BBQ. Moreover, the CAC approved funds for York House and Corpus Christi Parole youth to take college entrance exams, tuition, books and supplies to attend Del Mar College.

During this period the CAC has had their annual fundraiser for the year, a car wash. The car wash generated approximately \$830.00 in revenue.

The youth participated in various clean up projects throughout the community: Beach to Bay Relay Marathon in which the sponsor donated \$300.00 to the council for a job well done by the youth; Bay Ball Bally Hoop Basketball tournament, (Proceeds of this event go to Special Olympics) Beautify Corpus Christi Association and the Emancipation Day celebration.

York House continues to conduct presentations, in the community, to programs such as the Juvenile Detention Center, Corpus Christi Police Academy Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi and Del Mar College.

The CCYRC meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the conference room at York House.

### Corsicana Resource Council

Three members of the Corsicana Resource Council attended the State Volunteer Conference held in Houston. Each came back renewed and ready for the many activities planned to benefit the youth of CRTC.

Two Incentive Dinners have been held to reward students who have shown improvement and promote continued effort in the Resocialization Program. The first dinner was an old fashioned fish fry complete with all the trimmings. The professional singing group, "Southern Joy" provided the entertainment. The second Incentive Dinner offered chicken fingers, gravy, "hot wings," homemade potato salad, baked beans, and chocolate cake. Several staff members provided the entertainment with their own version of "When I Fight Authority, Authority Always Wins."

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The habit of some committee chairs or senior staff of reading reports out loud is a major time killer. It presumes that no one read the report when it was distributed with the board package. Reports that do not include recommendations that require the board's approval should never make it onto the agenda. If a member has a significant question about the contents of a report, an item can be added to the agenda under "New Business". Putting every report on the agenda is begging for long meetings.

### Reports with Requests for a Board Decision

A report that includes a recommendation for board action should always be distributed in advance so that members can discuss it intelligently at the meeting. When it comes up on the agenda, the person responsible should summarize the report briefly. What is the issue? What are the facts? What options were considered? What is the recommendation? Why is it best? Again, there is no reason to read the whole report, or even major portions, at the meeting. Each member should be familiar with its contents. Then the board's time can be spent discussing the issue, the options, and the recommendation.

### Financial Statements

Another time killer is discussion of the financial statements. Many members of non-profit boards feel less than comfortable with financial statements. They don't really understand what the

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In August the Council participated in the CRTC graduation ceremony by depositing \$20.00 in each graduate's account and providing each graduate with a card and long-stemmed carnation. Neil Crosswhite, current chair of the Council, presented the Valedictorian and Salutatorian and explained the role of the CRC.

The Council continues with the "New Start" project, giving each released student a sport bag filled with helpful items such as: a phone card; toiletry items; snacks for the trip; stamps; stationary; etc. The CRC also continues to assist family members in visiting students, continues to purchase a birthday cake and small gift for each student, and continues to purchase items needed by the youth for special events.

The CRC meets the second Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon. Several of the Council members arrive early and enjoy lunch with the students.

### **Crockett Community Resource Council for Troubled Youth, Inc.**

*No report submitted.*

### **Dallas Community Advisory Council**

The following is a summary of activities and accomplishments by The Dallas Community Advisory Council (DCAC) from June 1, 2003 through September 2003.

DYRAC has secured required signatures to update its Articles of Incorporation and Registered Agent Change forms and submitted required documents to the State of Texas Office of the Secretary for filing. The council has officially changed its name to the Dallas Youth Resource & Advisory Council (DYRAC). The council has participated in the Southern Methodist University Non-Profit Fair and the "VIVA Dallas Community Fair". The council has also recruited volunteers through the "Fun in the Sun – Sunday".

The Council continues its yearlong recruitment campaign and continues its efforts to attract new members. The council's membership increased from 9

to 11 dedicated and active members. The council also entered 2 teams totaling 9 youth into the NBA Hoop-It-Up Tournament, resulting in placing a team in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The Council continues to support the Female Teen First Group, by providing meals for their monthly group meetings after school. The Council purchased performing garments for the females of Dallas Parole District to perform at the Annual Volunteer Awards and Recognition Banquet, which resulted in them performing at other engagements.

The Awards and Recognition Committee has recognized 5 youth from the Dallas District Office and the Cottrell House as "Outstanding Youth of the Month". The Committee awards the youth with a certificate in order to encourage them to continue to support their efforts for following the rules of parole and rules at the Cottrell House.

The Council is currently working the Texas Stadium's Dallas Cowboys' Home Game Concession stand once again to raise funds for special projects and to meet youth basic needs. The council provides funds to purchase youth's meals during this fundraiser.

Finally, the council's chairperson appointed Frank Bradford as the chairperson of the audit committee.

### **Evins Volunteer Council**

Since June 2003 the Evins Volunteer Council has added three new members. They are Chris Lash, Executive Director of Keep McAllen Beautiful, Rey

Escaname, City of Edinburg Code Enforcement and Fred Reyes, Student Liaison for the Alamo Middle School.

The Council continues to support youth activities that include the Evins Baseball team, the art class, GED graduation ceremonies and Gifts to graduates (each graduate has \$50.00 placed in his student trust account) youth cultural events and special events for dorms that demonstrate exemplary behavior.

Most recently, the Council approved the purchase of flags, equipment and accessories that will be used by the newly formed Military Dorm Color

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numbers mean, so they focus on what they do understand. "Why have we overspent on office supplies by 12%?" Discussions about big changes in small line items are simply a waste of time. Every new board orientation should include an introduction to the financial statements and what they mean. Reducing the number of lines in the budget presentation can also reduce the number of questions and save considerable time. Expenditures on overhead costs may be relevant; discussing office supplies is not.

### **Stage the Agenda**

Make sure that the agenda allows time to discuss the most important items. Figure out what these will be for each agenda and put them in the middle. The first items should be ones that don't suffer if some members haven't arrived yet. The last items should not need too much brain power, because people start to wind down after a couple hours of meeting.

### **Carver's Governance Model**

John Carver has developed some interesting principles in his governance model (ref. Boards That Make a Difference), and while I wouldn't go as far as he has, the idea of setting policy boundaries within which the CEO works and reports can save considerable reporting time. In this model, the CEO doesn't report on what s/he has done in each area, just in those areas that are outside the pre-approved board policies. This cuts CEO reporting time down and helps the board

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Guard. The Color Guard made its debut at the last GED graduation ceremony held in September.

The Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12 noon.

### El Paso Community Resource Council

*No report submitted.*

### Fort Worth Resource Council for Youth

During this past 4 months the council has focused on their four committees, Funding, Recruitment of Volunteers, Development of Worksites/Community Service Sites, and Family Involvement. The council has planned a recruitment challenge for building council membership and researched their resources of where to recruit for Mentors, Tutors, and Chaplaincy volunteers.

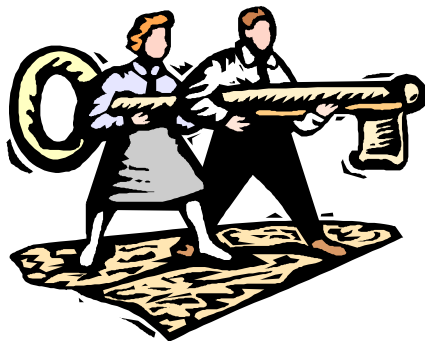
Since June, the members raised \$221.19 from the vending machines at the Fort Worth District Office and Parole youth raised \$182.74 holding a car wash for the council and received community service. The council tried another small easy fundraiser by selling Avon. The council has made \$157.47 from selling the Avon. During August meeting it was discussed to research other avenues of fundraising and the council will be looking into approaching restaurants and asking for a percentage of their makings for one night, all we have to do is advertise for them. The planned major Fundraiser was placed on hold until the Spring of 04 due to lack of time.

We celebrated with the volunteer's from Fort Worth District and Willoughby House as the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held in July. Willoughby House was decorated with construction items and the theme was "Building young lives for a stronger tomorrow".

We approved \$400.00 for Fort Worth Parole to hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> community service site appreciation. We were able to get a restaurant to agree to \$4.00 a plate. We

expect around 100 people and the event will be held at one of the Community Service Site meeting rooms.

The council installed new and some renewed their office position during the September meeting. The FWRCY meets the fourth Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



### Gainesville Student Support Council

As always, the Student Support Council try and stay active by being involved with activities at the school campus. With a lot happening during the Christmas Holidays and my being ill, the Student Support Council hosted a luncheon for the administrative staff and employees in February 2003.

The Council continues donating \$75.00 a month to provide pizza for the dorms. SSC continue to receive funds from various business in the Community to help with the Christmas activities, appreciation luncheons, graduation ceremonies, athletic program for out of town games

Father's Day Raffle was held in June 2003, which the Council netted \$1300 plus. All donations for the raffle were donated by different businesses in town. (Tammy, for your information only) Fidel was given a certificate for a manicure.) See if he has used it.

During the raffle drawing period, the Council was fortunate in receiving word on getting tattoo machines through the hard work of volunteer, Jerry Sebastian. A special meeting was called for the presentation.

September 13th, the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held with the Student Support Council as sponsors

for the food. Miss Olivia's Bed and Breakfast donated the dessert.

For the silent auction at the SVRC the Council donated an item. Sponsored a parent from Corpus Christi to visit with son. Bought t-shirts for faith based dorm. Sponsored several graduation receptions for family and volunteers of students. Bought wristwatches for students. The \$75.00 is for pizza for students that pass their GED tests. Was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart as part of their share on the raffle.

### Community Advisory Council for Giddings State School

*No report submitted.*

### Volunteer Resource Council for Valley Youth

*No report submitted.*

### Community Volunteer Youth Council for the Metropolitan Houston Area

The Community Volunteer Youth Council is a chartered non-profit advisory council for the local Texas Youth Commission (TYC) program. The Council is dedicated to providing positive role models, education, recreational, employment and financial resources to Houston Area youth under the jurisdiction of TYC

The Annual Educational Banquet was held May 8, 2003 and was hosted by the Council and HE Butts Inc. to recognize TYC Parole and Contract youth who have exhibited academic success in a school, vocational or trade school program. This year more than 35 students were recognized from the Eastern Service Area. One hundred and twenty-five guests that included parents, parole officers, council members, and central office administrators were in attendance.

The year was spent planning and assisting the State Resource Council with hosting the 2003 statewide volunteer conference in Houston May 30th to June 1 2003. The Conference had 285 people attend. Conference

evaluations indicated that participants enjoyed the conference and all that it had to offer.

The Council will now be known as the Houston Area Resource Council for Texas Youth. Name change will be filed. The Council has secured during this time more than \$12,500 in grants and contributions. Contributors include Fiesta Mart Inc, H.E. Butts Inc, Enterprise Foundation and community supporters. The Council continues to assist youth on parole by providing emergency and transportation funds. The expenditures in this area were 300.00.

The Houston Community Volunteer Youth Council meets the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

### **Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit**

The Falls County Community Council for Youth at Risk has been very busy during the past six months. Fund-raising projects included retractable badge holders, TYC polo shirts and donations from staff as Memorials. All of the fund-raisers have proven to be very successful.

The Council provided greeting cards for Mothers Day and Fathers Day purchased from the Prison Card Ministry for the youth to write and send home for the holidays. They sponsored the Bunny Martin weekend event and provided refreshments for over 50 volunteers. They also underwrote the local 2003 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet spending about \$500.00

Someone from the council always attends the SVRC meetings in Austin and one member attended the State Conference and supported the Silent auction that Community Relations Coordinator Tanya Rosas of MOAU was in charge of. The auction brought in \$3,900.00 for next years Conference. The biggest accomplishment has been to become Incorporated Council, which included rewriting the by-laws, and they voted to change the council name. The council now is a 501(c) (3) organization. The Council continues to recruit new members. They have 1 new

member that replaced previous a member that left the council due to illness for a total of 20 members. They are striving to get a better mix of the community in the Council. They currently have a balance of \$1,931.00 in the bank.

The Council meets the second Thursday of every month, except for July and December from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the MOAU conference room.

### **McLennan County Community Resource Council for Troubled Texas Youth**

McLennan County Community Resource Council for Troubled Texas Youth is three-and-half-years old with meetings every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00P.M. in the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility's (MCSJCF) visitation room. This past year we have lost three very active members due to an increase in duties on their jobs or at home. We have been however fortunate to gain two new members.

The Council continues to run a commissary that is managed by the Community Relations Department. The items are purchased on a weekly basis from Sam's Club, Frito Lay, Coca Cola, Dr. Pepper and Walgreens. The council now provides quality hair-care and hygiene products to high phase students. The council also continues to sponsor parties for the students that do well with TABE testing.

This year the council voted to serve lunch to GED and High School graduates on graduation day. Each quarter the council brings in pizza and drinks to the graduates prior to the ceremony. The council provided rewards for the winners of the MCSJCF talent show, and is now planning a big Christmas celebration for the students, with a catered dinner, gifts and entertainment.

We are selling shirts by order as a fundraiser.

### **McAllen Community Volunteer Council**

*No report submitted.*

### **McFadden Community Advisory Council**

McFadden Community Advisory Council members have funded many educational outings for the youth at McFadden. They have spent \$270.00 taking the youth to the Kimball museum and to the museum exhibit on remembering 9/11. They helped fund transportation, meals, and lodging for one family to come visit their son. The council held a fun day for the youth at the ranch by providing \$151.00 worth of hot dogs and hamburgers. The council members came out and cooked the food for the youth, while two nursing home residents were guests and visited the youth during their fun day. The Council helped fund (\$300.00) the 2003 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at McFadden. The youth are teaming up with this nursing home to decorate their doors and halls for different holidays. The council purchased three "Run Baby Run" by Nicky Cruz and three "Cross and the Switch Blade" books for McFadden's library. The council received two sets of three Cowboy tickets valued at \$280.00 for each set. Two council members and four youth went and enjoyed the game as an incentive for the youth. The youth and council ran a craft booth at the Keller Wild Wild West Fair and sold over \$80.00 of Christmas wreaths, birdbaths, etc. that the youth had made and donated to the council. The council wrote one grant and will not hear the results until December 2003. The council received \$500.00 from Nascar Corporation in North Carolina. The money was received because the youth, council members, and staff helped with one of the Texas Motor Speedway Children Charity events.

The MCAC has funded several projects that involve youth participation; the garden project and green house were among these projects. We recently were able to have electricity and a



sprinkler system installed by one of McFadden's very own mentors.

The council funded a tattoo removal session at a cost of \$600. The year was spent developing more tattoo removal funds and searching for a new doctor to assist with this program. Another company that leases laser equipment was found, and the company agreed to lease it at a much lower cost. We have a new doctor and the laser equipment is now \$600.00 (from FY02 of \$1000.00).

McFadden is preparing most of the youth for independent living. The council has been involved in helping the youth find good paying jobs and looking for acceptable apartments/houses for the youth when they are released. From combined efforts of mentors, council members, and McFadden staff, one youth is now working for the City of Roanoke making \$11.25 an hour and renting a small house in Roanoke. Another council member will be traveling around the State coming to other council meeting asking for resources that will help the other youth who will be returning home.

The council developed the Keller Fire Department as a community service site. This community service has since developed into a great opportunity for the youth. They go every other week to the Fire Department and learn all about fire safety, CPR, and First Aid. As the youth are washing the fire trucks for community service, the firemen are becoming like mentors.

## Volunteer Council for Texas Youth in San Antonio

From April 2003 through September 2003, the San Antonio council members have recruited four new council members.

In April 2003, the council made plans for the San Antonio Area Volunteer Recognition Banquet. Volunteers from Parole, Ayres House and Contract Facilities were recognized at one event. In May 200, over seventy volunteers and friends of TYC attended the event that was held at the City of San Antonio Claude Black Community Center. Also in May 2003, the council held it's annual spring raffle at the Rigsby Super Center Wal-Mart and raised \$1200.00.

From May to September 2003, the Volunteer Council worked extremely hard and planned the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Spare Some Time for Texas Youth" Bowl-A-Thon fund-raiser. As a result, on September 27<sup>th</sup> the event was held at the San Antonio Bandera Bowl. Eighty bowlers participated including TYC Youth, TYC staff, local business/organizations, and twenty volunteers. The total amount received in sponsorships and pledges was \$5333.00. Also, over \$5000.00 worth of in-kind prizes and gifts was awarded to adult and youth bowlers during the event. Because of the hard work of the volunteer council, TYC youth will have a nice Christmas.

The VCTYSA meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Ayres House.

## San Saba State School Volunteer Council Activities

The San Saba State School Volunteer Council has been busy these past months.

They continue to provide funds for family visits by purchasing bus tickets and providing funds for lodging, they have provided funds for youth to receive ID cards, and provide funds each month for a youth who has been chosen as the Youth of the Month. They help keep the color guard looking in tiptop shape at their presentations by taking care of their uniforms. They provide funds for congratulatory parties for those who win the various contests i.e. marching, softball, and 3 on 3 basketball. They also provide refreshments for the Specialized Treatment Dorms Family Seminars and special thank you for the guests who participated in the Victim Impact Presentation program.

The Going Home bags given to youth as they leave have been a great success. So much so, that a second order of 50 bags has been made.

The Council purchased 20 targets to be used for the First Annual 3-D Target Shoot. Several items were donated for this event. They were: advertising posters, the sponsor signs placed at the targets as well as those signs that showed the way and the score cards. The Council purchased hot dogs and drinks for everyone to enjoy at the shoot. The Shoot netted a profit of \$1,100 and had 32 shooters.

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concentrate on what is important.

In summary, it's always nice to know what's going on in your organization. But at the board meetings, concentrate on what you need to know, and you'll be able to keep any board meeting to two hours or less.

*Ernie Ginsler is President of Ginsler and Associates Inc. He has worked for more than 25 years in community development, human services planning, and community capacity building. Clients include community organizations, donors, and governments in such areas as homelessness, hunger, community research, and multi-sector co-ordination and collaboration. More information about Mr. Ginsler can be found at: <<http://charitychannel.com/resources/Detailed/599.html>>.*



Four volunteers attended the State Volunteer Resource Council meeting in Houston as a result of the Councils generosity.

The Council feels that support of the staff is a way to benefit the youth and helped with the funds for the San Saba State School Annual Employee Picnic.

The Council continues to provide funds for special events with Fort Hood, items for the canteen and purchase film for the weekend picture project, and canteen items for those who pass the TABE test.

San Saba T.Y.C. Volunteer Council, Inc. meets the last Wednesday of the Month at 12:00 Noon at San Saba State School.

### **Sheffield Boot Camp Community Advisory Council**

*No report submitted.*

### **Vernon Victory Field Community Advisory Council, Inc.**

Vernon Victory Field Community Advisory Council, Inc. continues to be strong and consistent. The tattoo removal program is running smoothly, we are getting ready for the Christmas fund-raiser and our council continues to focus on parent involvement. Following is a brief overview of the past six months:

Fund-raisers:

Vernon Victory Field Community Advisory Council, Inc is listed as an approved charity in the State Employee Charitable Campaign for the second year. The council received over \$1,400.00 in donations from the 2002 SECC campaign. VVFCAC is the first council in TYC to be listed as an approved SECC charity.

The council is getting ready for the annual Christmas fund-raiser. A Christmas Appeal Letter will be sent to 350 local citizens. In addition council

members will make personal contacts with local businesses for donations.

Projects:

The visitation and graduation picture projects averages \$200.00 monthly.

We continue to focus on family involvement in the rehabilitation of the cadets at VFCA. Our partnership with local churches to provide assistance to parents for transportation, food and lodging continues to be strong and successful. The Adopt-A-Group churches also provide transportation back and forth to the campus during the weekend visits and volunteers spend many hours taking parents out to eat and to church services. Many families have been able to visit their sons with the help of this program.

The Tattoo Removal Program is running smoothly. Our council received a grant from a local foundation to purchase an infrared coagulator (tattoo removal machine). Dr. Ouzts, a local doctor and member of our council is the Team Leader for this program. This has been an exciting step forward for the council.

Activities:

Christmas is a busy and fun time for our council. The council provides gifts for the Christmas parties, while the Adopt-A-Group churches provide gifts Christmas morning. There were seven Christmas parties with thirteen churches participating.

We host a breakfast for the Victim Impact Panel presenters and give them gifts of appreciation for the work they do with VFCA youth. This is ongoing and council members rotate the hosting responsibilities.

We support the local Ministerial Alliance and help them as needed to provide special worship services at Christmas and Easter.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM

### **West Texas Community Resource Council for Troubled Youth**

The West Texas Community Resource Council is celebrating 20 years of incorporation in 2003! The Community Advisory Council for West Texas Children's Home submitted its Articles of Incorporation to the Secretary of State on December 13, 1983 and has been working hard serving the youth of TYC ever since!

The council continues to work on recruitment, fund-raising and looking for new ways to serve the youth of WTSS. Some of our on-going projects include the Family Assistance Program and support of WTSS student intramurals.

This December the council will again assist with dorm holiday parties. The annual holiday fund-raising letter will go out in mid-November and the council is planning another grocery raffle prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our t-shirt/denim shirt fund-raiser that began in FY'01 continues into FY'04. The council also continues to provide family photos at GED ceremonies and once a month during visitation. WTCRC had one delegate attend the SVRC meeting in May 2003. Council Operation Manuals have been distributed to members and the initial training has been presented. The WTCRC meets each first Tuesday of the month in the WTSS Administration Conference Room at 7:00pm.